

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kazuya ODA et al.

Application No.: 10/671,802

Confirmation No.: 9920

Filed: September 29, 2003

Art Unit: 2622

For: DYNAMIC RANGE BROADENING METHOD Examiner: T. T. Diep
FOR A SOLID-STATE IMAGE SENSOR
INCLUDING PHOTSENSITIVE CELLS
EACH HAVING A MAIN AND A
SUBREGION

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

MS Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 5-8 are allowed. On pages 2-3, the Notice of Allowability describes the reasons for indicating allowable subject matter as:

The prior art of record does not suggest or disclose a method for broadening a dynamic range of a solid-state image sensor including photosensitive cells each being made up of a main region and a sub-region respectively provided with higher and lower photosensitivity, and allowing signal charges to be read out from the main region and the subregion separately, comprising the steps of digitizing the signal charge read out from the main region and writing a resulting digital signal to two memories; amplifying digital signals written to the two memories with different gains; and combining two kinds of digital signals amplified; whereby the dynamic range of the solid-state image sensor is broadened by use only of the main region.

Applicants note, however, that these comments appear to refer to features of claim 1 (non-elected, cancelled), instead of allowed independent claim 5. Therefore, Applicants wish to clarify the record and note that the scope of claim 5 should not be limited by the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

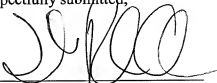
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 29, 2008

Respectfully submitted,



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